

failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The drawings are corrected by the attached Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections to obviate the objections. The specification is amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

II. The Title Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the title as not descriptive. The title is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action suggests amending the specification in accordance with cited guidelines. The specification is amended in accordance with U.S. patent practice. No new matter is added.

IV. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,461,530 to Brush, Sr. et al. (hereinafter "the 530 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,322,459 to Spinnato (hereinafter "the 459 patent"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The 530 and 459 patents do not disclose a contact clip having a rear extremity in the form of an annular crown that is fitted inside of a front part of a lodging of a contact piece, as claimed in claim 1. Instead, the 530 and 459 patents disclose that the rear portion of the clip extends up to the rear portion of the lodging.

Because of this difference, the 530 and 459 patents cannot provide advantages of the claimed invention. For example, the claimed structure discussed above enables use of less costly material to constitute the clip.

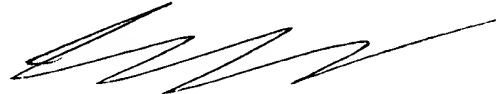
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-20, which depend from claim 1, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:EDM/ccs

Attachment:
Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections

Date: January 12, 2001

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